

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. At the time of the outstanding Office Action, claims 9-26 were pending. By this Response, claims 10, 16 and 22 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with appropriate status identifiers.

Drawing and Claim Objections

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as allegedly including reference character(s) not mentioned in the description. Specifically, figure 9, reference number 1000 and figure 10 reference number 1100. Claims 14, 20 and 26 stand objected to because of minor typographical errors.

Figures 9 and 10 and reference numbers 1000 and 1100 are discussed at least in ¶¶ 0068 and 0070 of the instant published application. In ¶ 0068 reference number 1000 is described as a “gap”, and in ¶ 0070 reference number 1100 is described as a “complementary 3D object.” Thus, the instant reference characters are mentioned in the specification.

Claims 14, 20 and 26 have been amended in accordance with the Office Action’s recommendation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the instant objections.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

Claims 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Claims 15-20 are amended. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the instant rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 9-13, 15-19 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0176908 to Senda *et al.* (Senda) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,490 to Nimura *et al.* (Nimura). Because the cited art does not teach or suggest each of the limitations of the instant claims, Applicant traverses.

As amended, the instant claims provide for creating a second three-dimensional object having geometry identical to that of a first three-dimensional object based on cross-section data of the first three-dimensional object and length data of the first three-dimensional object. Support for the amendment may be found, at least, at ¶¶ 0075-0077 and Fig. 12 of the instant published application. The instant claims have the advantage of allowing for the reduction in the amount of map information data required to be stored in a database for a three-dimensional object. (¶ 0060 of the instant published application.)

The cited art does not teach or disclose this subject matter. Senda merely discusses a map displaying apparatus which changes the height of objects displayed on a screen in accordance with magnitude, frequency components and the like of sounds. (¶ 0047.) Nimura merely discusses a map display device which relates coordinates on a curved plane into coordinates on a projected plane. (Abstract.) Neither Senda nor Nimura mention using cross-section data of a three-dimensional object, much less mention generating a second three-dimensional object having geometry identical to a first three-dimensional object based on the cross-section and information on length. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, the cited art does not teach or suggest the limitations of the instant claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the instant rejection.

Claims 14, 20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Senda in view of Nimura, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,980 to Nguyen *et al.* (Nguyen). Because the cited art does not teach or suggest each of the limitations of the instant claims, Applicant traverses.

Claims 14, 20 and 26 depend from claims 9, 15 and 21, respectively. The deficiencies of Senda and Nimura, already discussed, regarding claims 9, 15 and 21 are not cured by Nguyen. Nguyen merely discusses the smoothing of objects constructed from multiple lamina layers having discontinuities between layers. (Col. 11, lines 20-41.) Nguyen makes no mention of creating a second three-dimensional object having geometry identical to that of a first three-dimensional object based on a cross-section and information on length of the first three-dimensional object. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, Nguyen does not teach or suggest the limitations of the instant claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the instant rejection.

CONCLUSION

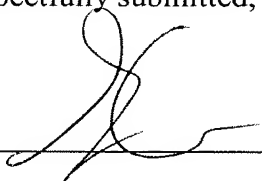
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/10/09

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371